Estimates for the Construction of the Alwaye Bridge.

50. **MR. C. P. TARAKAN** (*Kunnatnad*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether estimates for the bridge proposed to be newly constructed near the Alwaye ferry are ready in the Chief Engineer's Office?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): An estimate for the work is under scrutiny in the Chief Engineer's Office.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): എസ്റ്റിമേറ്റ് എന്നത്തേയ്ക്ക് തയ്യാറാകുമെന്ന ഉദ്ദേശമെങ്കിലും പറയാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): This is what the Chief Engineer says :—

"The estimate for Rs. 2 lakhs and odd, already forwarded to Government, is being scrutinised in the Chief Engineer's Office to see if it would suit present conditions, in the light of the surveys, levels and soundings just received from the Division Officer, Alwaye, and if not, to revise it to suit current prices of materials and labour".

If necessary, a revision also will have to be made. I cannot therefore say exactly when the estimate will be ready.

Corruption re sale of salt at Munambam.

51. **MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): (1) With reference to the statement of the President of the Legislative Council on the 6th August, 1924, regarding corruption in the sale of salt in the Salt Bankshall at Munambam, have the Government conducted any fresh enquiry into the matter?

(2) If so, what is the nature of the enquiry and what is the decision thereon?

(3) If the matter has not yet been decided, will the Government be pleased to appoint a committee with a non-official majority to enquire into the same?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): (1), (2) and (3) In pursuance of the statement made by the President of the Legislative Council on the 6th August, 1924, further enquiries were made by Government on the allegations regarding corruption in the sale of salt at Munambam. It was found that Mr. Kumara Pillai's statement at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the above-mentioned date, that the complaints regarding the sale of salt arose long before the enhancement of duty on salt, was not correct. The complaints originated only after the enhancement of salt duty. Further, the plea that the allegation of Mr. Khadir Pillai in the Council had reference only to the collection of excess duty was not raised by the Excise Commissioner but by Mr. Khadir Pillai himself. Mr. Khadir Pillai did not want the Excise Commissioner to proceed with the enquiry started by him in connection with the complaints. Hence no further action was considered necessary.

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